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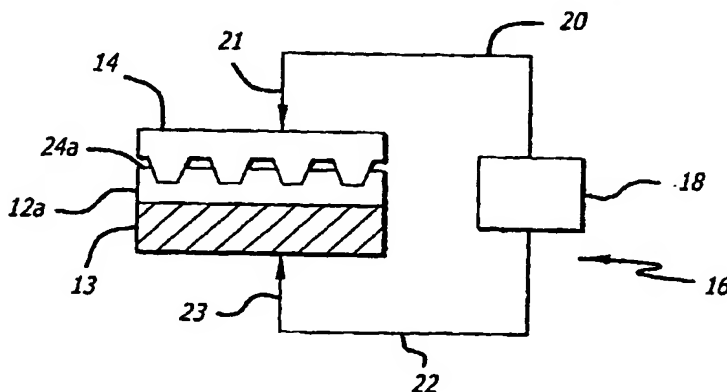
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(54) Title: INFINITELY ADJUSTABLE ENGAGEMENT SYSTEM AND METHOD



(57) Abstract: A system for releasable engagement of two bodies where one of the bodies deforms the other body during the engagement process includes a first body (12) having an engagement surface that is made from a pseudo-elastic material. The pseudo-elastic material is maintained at an operating temperature that is above the martensite-austenite transition temperature for the material. The second body (14) has an indenter surface that contacts the pseudo-elastic material and exerts sufficient stress to convert the material from the relatively hard austenite state to the relatively soft martensite state wherein the material conforms to the indenter shape. Upon release of the indenter contact stress, the pseudo-elastic material changes back to its original shape.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US04/04161¹

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) : F16D 1/00

US CL : 403/282

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 403/282, 1, 28, 274, 278, 279, 280; 74/595, 567; 29/893.2, 507, 508, 515, 521, 522.1

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5,722,709 (LORTZ et al) 03 March 1998 (03.03.1998), Figures 1-5.	1-5,9-15,20
X	US 5,134,812 (HOFFMAN et al) 04 August 1992 (04.08.1992), Figures 8-10.	1-4,6,9-14,16,20
A	US 5,586,983 (SANDERS et al) 24 December 1996 (24.12.1996), Figures 1-7.	1-18,20

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.

☐ See patent family annex.

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